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TOMATO PRICES SLUMP TO THREE-YR SEASONAL LOW

Steepest fall in Maharashtra, where rate fell 80% to ₹4/kg, forcing farmers to dump produce on roads amid supply glut

FAVOURABLE WEATHER ADDED TO YIELD

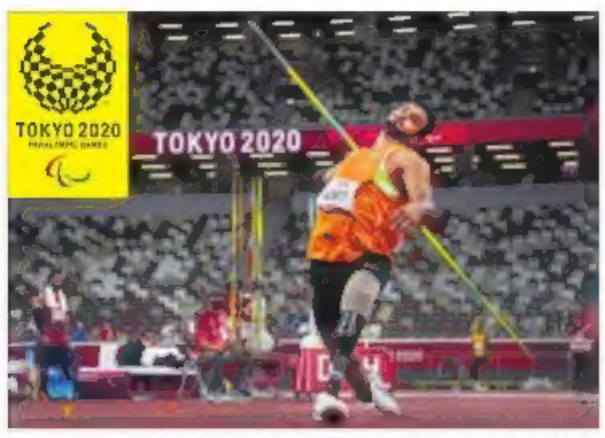
In 23 of the 31 centres across the country monitored by the government, the average price slump was 50% compared to year-ago Kharif rate. Acting director of National Horticultural Research & Development Foundation P K Gupta said, "Favourable weather helped boost yield, but tendency to grow crops with higher price at the time of sowing added to the situation."

NEED MORE FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

- India's production rose 2.20% to 21 million tonnes in 2020-21 crop year as against 20.55 million tonnes in the year-ago period
- Gupta said farmers can be cushioned from the impact of falling prices if food processing companies absorb the excess output
- India, as per industry estimates, consumes 99% tomatoes fresh

1.5L
TONNES OF TOMATOES ARE PROCESSED ANNUALLY IN INDIA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



Sumit Antil in action during Tokyo Paralympics. He set new world records thrice in his throws. Avani Lekhara (R) set a new paralympic mark during shooting final | PTI/AFP

INDIA'S GOLD RESERVE

Neeraj's mate, Sumit, sets new world record

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

IT turned out to be a manic Monday for India at the Tokyo Paralympics. Five medals including two gold, as many silver and one bronze in one day is the best by the country. The five protagonists had five different stories but the two that definitely hogged the limelight were javelin thrower Sumit Antil and shooter Avani Lekhara, and both entwined by similar tales of agony —accidents.

When Sumit lost his leg in a motorbike accident in 2015, his first love, wrestling, had to be shelved. He turned his attention towards javelin. With prosthetics on, Sumit managed to show glimpses of his prowess and on Monday he won gold with a world record. As fate would have it, he met Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra three years ago and even had a training stint together in 2018. Sumit doesn't limit himself to competing in Para sporting events. Such is his confidence that he challenges able-bodied men too. He even competed against Neeraj and co at the Indian Grand Prix 3 in March. Sumit finished seventh then with Chopra shattering his own national record with a throw of 88.07m. No wonder, as soon as the news of Sumit's gold flashed across social media, Neeraj tweeted "Khatarnak performance bhai Sumit, proud of you (Deadly performance brother Sumit, proud of you)."

"This is my first Paralympics and I was a little nervous because the competitors are great. I was hoping for a 70m+ throw, maybe I can do 75m. It was not my best, I am very happy to break the world record," said Sumit after the win. "We have a community of javelin throwers in the country. Sumit loves competing against Neeraj. They practise together and they share a special bond," Naval Singh, Sumit's coach, told this daily. "Back in 2018, they even had a one-month long training stint in Finland. They share knowledge and give suggestions to each other," he added.

Jhajharia adds to legacy with a silver

Devendra Jhajharia, a two-time Paralympic gold medallist, won a silver this time, while discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya finished second. Sundar Singh Gurjar also chipped in with a bronze

Vinod loses bronze over criteria

Indian discus thrower Vinod Kumar lost his F52 category bronze medal after being found ineligible in disability classification assessment by the competition panel. He had won bronze on Sunday

Shooting paralysis, depression with sport

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

ON that fateful day in 2012, Praveen Lekhara and his family were travelling from Dholpur, where the former was posted as an ADM, to Jaipur. The car skidded near Agra and flipped two-three times injuring all the passengers. It included Praveen, wife Shweta, children Avani and Arnav and their cousin. They sustained injuries but recovered in the next few months. Avani, though, wasn't so fortunate. The accident rendered her immobile, paralysing her from the waist down.

"It made her an introvert. She went into depression. Then we suggested her to pursue sports. She tried her hand at archery but balancing turned out to be an issue," Praveen, who is now posted as Revenue Appellate Authority in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar, told this daily.

The father then took her to the JDA shooting range in Jagatpura, Jaipur. The decision worked wonders as she not only developed interest in the sport but also found a purpose in life. Close to a decade's worth of hard work and dedication paid rich dividends on Monday as Avani became India's first woman gold medallist at the Tokyo Paralympics when she shot a total of 249.6 in the 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1. By doing so, the 19-year-old shooter also equalled the world record.

The father said this is just the beginning. "She will compete in three more events and is hopeful of winning more medals." Avani is set to compete in mixed 10m air rifle prone, women's 50m rifle 3 positions and mixed 50m rifle prone.

Given the equipment she has to carry, she is accompanied either by her father or mother for every event. Her mother is with her in Tokyo. "I feel happy and grateful right now. I feel right on top of the world. I dedicate my medal to all Indians. I have a lot of competition days ahead and more medals to come. I have three more events and am focusing on them," Avani was quoted as saying. P19

IS rocket attack on airport foiled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A day before the evacuation operation in Afghanistan is set to wind up, the US on Monday thwarted five rockets fired at the Kabul airport. While the ISIS reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack, US officials said there were no casualties. US Maj Gen William Hank Taylor said three rockets landed off the airfield with no effect, one was intercepted by an anti-missile system, while the other landed "with no effect to the mission or any danger to our personnel".

The US drone strike targeting a suspected ISIS-K suicide bomber in Kabul on Sunday killed nine members of a family including six children, the CNN reported.

The US had warned of a string of attacks targeting the airport where evacuations have entered the final stage. US troops are slated to pull out of Kabul by Tuesday. The ongoing evacuation will also come to an end, leaving behind thousands of people frantically trying to get away from the brutal Taliban.

However, a joint statement signed by over 90 countries said Afghan nationals who helped the US-led coalition over the past two decades will still be able to travel to a safe destination outside Afghanistan. The statement, signed by the US, Australia, Canada and major European nations, claimed the Taliban have agreed to this arrangement. Key players in the region like Iran, Russia, China, Pakistan and India are not among the signatories according to a list put out by the US Department of State late on Sunday night. P11

'AF RAISES NEW SECURITY QUESTIONS'

New Delhi: The developments in Afghanistan have raised new security questions, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, adding the Centre is capable of dealing with any situation. Meanwhile, top Taliban leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai said the militia wants to have good ties with India. P9

EXPRESS READ

B'luru police arrest model in drug case

BENGALURU: The Govindapura police on Monday raided the houses of a model, a DJ and a realtor in connection with their alleged links to a Nigerian drug peddler who was nabbed a fortnight ago. Three teams raided the houses of model Sonia Agarwal, DJ Vachan Chinnappa and realtor Bharath in the city. Three packets of ganja were seized from Sonia's residence and she was arrested later | P5

INTERVIEW

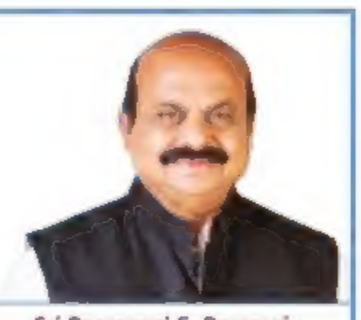
Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

'NOT SATISFIED WITH 2 MEDALS'

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, Brij Bhushan Singh, felt that the country's wrestlers can do much more at the international level, in an exclusive interview with this daily | P19

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology
Government of Karnataka



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

ELEVATE 2021
(Idea2PoC Grant-in-aid scheme for Startups as per Karnataka Startup Policy 2015-2020)

ELEVATE UNNATI
(Idea2PoC Grant-in-aid for Startups by SC/ST Entrepreneurs)

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TIMELINE TO APPLY :
From 1st September, 2021 (9.00 am) to 18th September, 2021 (up to 5.00 pm)

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* Applications that do not comply with the eligibility criteria or submission of Supporting Documents, shall be disqualified at any stage of the selection or funding, resulting in the cancellation of their Application/Grant

TIMELINE TO APPLY
Open from 1st September, 2021 (9.00 am) IST to 18th September, 2021 (5.00 pm) IST

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For Queries, call on 080-22231007 or write to us@ elevate-ktech@ka.gov.in for more details

COVID STATE

Classes 6-8 to reopen from Sept 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State Government on Monday decided to reopen physical classes for students of sixth to eighth standards from September 6. The classes will be held half a day for five days a week in taluks that have a Covid positivity rate of less than 2 per cent.

All schools will be allowed to reopen in Bengaluru, which has reported a positivity rate of 1 per cent. "We are not looking at ward wise figures here," said Revenue Minister R Ashoka after attending a Covid review meeting with CM Basavaraj Bommai and experts.

The attendance should be only 50 per cent in each class and students can attend classes on alternate days. "As classes are held only for five days a week, the remaining two days (Saturday and Sunday) will be used for cleaning and sanitising the school premises," he said.

This arrangement will continue for a month, after which the next course of action will be decided, taking into consideration the prevailing Covid situation. P7

NATIONWIDE	AUG 29	AUG 30
Fresh cases	45,083	42,909
Recoveries	35,840	34,763
Deaths	460	380

KARNATAKA	AUG 29	AUG 30
Fresh cases	1,262	973
Recoveries	1,384	1,324
Deaths	17	15

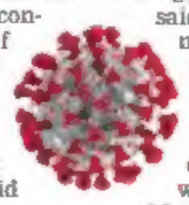
7-day mandatory quarantine

The Karnataka Government has announced that those entering Karnataka from Kerala must undergo mandatory institutional quarantine for seven days. They have to undergo an RTPCR test on the eighth day, said Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Monday. The order comes in the wake of the neighbouring state's daily Covid caseload touching 30,000. P3

State Govt may allow public Ganesha festivities: Minister

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AS Covid numbers are dipping, the State Government is likely to allow the public celebration of Ganesha festival, which falls on September 10, but with restrictions. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has convened a meeting of experts on September 5 to discuss the issue and to notify detailed guidelines.



Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Monday said that across the State, some 30 big organisers hold events where over 50,000 people gather and 200 smaller groups who organise public celebrations with 2,000 people attending them. The police have a list of these organisers, who take prior permission before holding the events. "We will get details from these organisers. The chief minister will hold the meeting on September 5 with experts to discuss the type of restrictions needed while allowing public celebrations," he said. Last year, the government had imposed strict curbs on Ganesha celebrations.

Ashoka said the chief minister is keen on allowing the festival with safety measures. Many political leaders too felt that the government should give the green signal. "We discussed this issue for over half an hour at the meeting. We are aware that Covid cases spiked in Kerala after Onam celebrations," he added. P7

B'luru Urban sees 100% first dose coverage

Bengaluru Urban emerged as the first district in the state to achieve 100 pc first dose vaccination. According to data, the target population in the age group of 18 and above is 10,62,262, while the total beneficiaries so far vaccinated, are 10,61,167, making it 100 pc coverage. P3